66. 3525

1 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR : Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Automation of Cable Processing in Cable Secretariat

Paragraph 6 of this memorandum contains two recommendations for your approval.

1. PROBLEM:

Through automation, to plan now for long-range system improvements in the processing functions of the Cable Secretariat.

2. ASSUMPTIONS:

a. In the decade ahead an increase in message processing activity is anticipated, along with a requirement for shortening the transmission time between the originator and the addressee.

b. Technological advancements in the computer and communication fields make possible new opportunities for introducing system improvements.

c. Automation is viewed as an investment that offers the only promise of achieving greater production per unit of manpower expended.

d. Automating the cable processing function will be a gradual process requiring some years to complete.

e. If the Intelligence Watch function is automated, such automation will be coordinated with or integrated into the Cable Secretariat's plans.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

a. Cable Secretariat facilities, including both people and procedures, are considerably strained to handle the present workload; there is little or no reserve to meet the expected increased workload.

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APPROVAL:

This program is approved in principle. Authority is also given to include a request for funds for the project in the Fiscal Year 1968 budget. However, your plans should be flexible enough to defer implementation to Fiscal Year 1969 if necessary.

/s/ L. K. White

L. K. White
Executive Director-Comptroller

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Director of Communications' Comment:

Related to the Cable Secretariat automation effort is the Office of Communications terminal automation project which has been programmed at [   ] in FY-1968 in our Long Range Plan. Whether or not the combined OC and Cable Secretariat funding for this project is adequate will not be known until detailed specifications have been developed.

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The impact of the attached proposal on the Office of Communications in FY-1967 and FY-1968 is additional staff man-hours to plan the Cable Secretariat Signal Center system. We have programmed for this requirement. In subsequent years we will require space, maintenance and computer programming personnel above presently projected levels. Each of these items will be identified and included in Office of Communications budget submissions beginning in FY-1969.

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